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GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES LITTER HOT SPOTS
Reminds Residents, 'Don't Trash Arizona'

PHOENIX – Governor Janet Napolitano, with the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) today identified the “Top 10 Litter Hot Spots” in the region and illustrated some of the litter problems we face along our state and regional freeways.

The hot spots report is part of the Don't Trash Arizona litter prevention campaign – reminding motorists to take pride in our state. Litter on roadways often attracts more litter, creating a negative impression for residents, tourists, businesses considering relocating to the state, and the employees those businesses recruit to work in Arizona.

“Keeping Arizona clean is something we can all play a part in,” Governor Napolitano said. “Since the start of this campaign, we've made strides to reduce litter on our roads, but there's more work to be done. Together we can take pride in our beautiful state and spread the message ‘Don't Trash Arizona.’”

Since June 2006, ADOT has increased the number of crews removing litter on Arizona highways, cleared 60 miles of underbrush and increased public outreach about Don't Trash Arizona by visiting schools and community groups.

Along with the “Hot Spots” report, ADOT also identified the most dangerous items of debris that are found on the freeway system, which often fall from unsecured loads or trailers. This debris poses a serious danger to motorists and contributes to the congestion “time tax” – the time we spend waiting in traffic.

“More than 80 percent of Arizona residents consider freeway litter to be a problem in our state,” said Phoenix Councilwoman Peggy Bilsten, MAG Transportation Policy Committee Chair. “That is why MAG specifically included \$279 million for litter control in the Regional Transportation Plan passed by voters as part of Proposition 400. While the extra funding has helped us increase the number of bags of litter being picked up along Valley freeways, our goal is to eliminate freeway litter altogether by encouraging motorists to take pride in our state and to dispose of trash the right way.”

A list of the Top 10 Litter Hot Spots is attached as a pdf file. For more information, please visit the Governor's Don't Trash Arizona Web site, at <http://www.azgovernor.gov/DontTrashAZ>.